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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,039	12/12/2000	Yuji Furuta	14139	4559
23389	7590	11/18/2004	EXAMINER	
SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER, PC 400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA GARDEN CITY, NY 11530				ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2616		

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/735,039	FURUTA, YUJI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher O. Onuaku	2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 December 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/09/02</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4,6,7,9-12,14&15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugisaki et al (US 5,535,275).

Regarding claim 1, Sugisaki et al disclose a technique for preventing unauthorized copying of an analog television signal by a digital video tape recorder, including a technique in which a scrambled signal is recorded when copying of an analog input signal is not authorized, comprising a reverse section for reversing a specific code by means of a code stream of the image information, an outputting it after reducing image quality of the image information by means of reverse of one code or a plurality of codes (see Fig.10&11; shuffling circuit 21 of Fig.10 of the compression coding circuit 14 of Fig.11; col.5, line 63 to col.6, line 47; col.7, line 50 to col.9, line 48, which discloses the function of the shuffling circuit 21 as the compression coding circuit 14 performs the compression coding function; and col.9, line 50 to col.11, line 46, which discloses some specific examples of scrambling techniques as performed by the shuffling circuit 21), here the function of the shuffling circuit (scrambling circuit) 21 is to

reduce the image quality of an image in order to make the image less recognizable when an unauthorized copying of the image is made, by changing the order of the macroblocks as shown in Fig.13 in col.8, line 40 to col.9, line 22.

It is pertinent to note that the claimed reversing the codes, as disclosed by applicant, fails to specifically recite exactly and completely changing the order of the codes to indicate the exact reverse order of the codes (see Fig.3&4 of the specification, for example). Therefore, the claimed "reverse" circuit is broad enough to read on the "shuffling" operation in Sugisaki et al.

Regarding claim 2, Sugisaki et al disclose wherein the reverse section reverses a code on a coefficient table of discrete cosine transform (see col.10, line 56 to col.11, line 4).

Regarding claim 3, Sugisaki et al disclose wherein the reverse section reverses a code within a range in which a code stream can be combined by means of a digital information compression technology without changing the data length of the code stream (see Fig.4A&4B; col.10, lines 12-27).

Regarding claim 4, Sugisaki et al disclose wherein the reverse section changes a deterioration degree of image quality by specifying a reverse position of a code (see col.10, line 56 to col.11, line 4 and col.11, lines 38-46).

Regarding claim 6, Sugisaki et al disclose wherein the reverse section conducts image quality reduction of image information by dividing it into two steps or more than or equal to three steps (see col.9, lines 54-67, and col.11, lines 38-46).

Regarding claim 7, Sugisaki et al disclose wherein the reverse section conducts image quality reduction for at least one of a Y component, a Cr component and a Cb component of image information (see Fig.12A-12C; col.7, line 50 to col.8, line 45 and col.11, lines 38-46).

Regarding claim 9, the claimed limitations of claim 9 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 10, the claimed limitations of claim 10 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 2 above.

Regarding claim 11, the claimed limitations of claim 11 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 12, the claimed limitations of claim 12 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 14, the claimed limitations of claim 14 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 15, the claimed limitations of claim 15 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 7 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5,8,13&16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugisaki et al in view of Aucsmith et al (US 5,991,403).

Regarding claim 5, Sugisaki et al fail to explicitly disclose an apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information wherein the reverse section specifies a reverse position by means of coordinates within each unit block of image information.

Aucsmith et al teach methods for processing video data, including methods for encrypting video data for display on processor-based video systems wherein is disclosed in Fig.8 a synchronized rotation transformation. Here, encryption key for a given frame, for example, provides three numbers 0, 4, and 3, which can be converted into three rotation angles. Original YUV coordinate system is then rotated by an

amount specified through through the rotation angles to generate a rotated coordinate Y'U'V' system. However, re-conversion to YUV is readily accomplished by inverting the coordinate rotations (see col.11, lines 49-62). Specifying a reverse position by means of coordinates within each unit block of image information provides the desirable advantage of showing another alternate scrambling technique.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sugisaki by adding another alternate scrambling technique by specifying a reverse position by means of coordinates within each unit block of image information, as taught by Aucsmith.

Regarding claim 8, Aucsmith further teaches wherein the reverse section has a random number generator for generating a random number for designating existence of code reverse (see col.10, lines 5-18).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further add scrambling means with a random number generator to Sugisaki for designating the existence of code reverse, since this would add yet another alternate scrambling technique, again, as taught by Aucsmith.

Regarding claim 13, the claimed limitations of claim 13 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 5 above.

Regarding claim 16, the claimed limitations of claim 16 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 8 above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yoshida et al (US 5,583,941) teach an image processor such as a printer or a copying machine for preventing leakage of secret document caused by illegal copying thereof.

Rhoads (US 6,542,618) teaches video signal processing, including processing of such signals to embed auxiliary data (e.g., identification or control data therein) and the subsequent extraction and use of such data.

Chung et al (US 6,310,962) teach a digital copy protection application of moving picture data which is seldom removed intentionally or unintentionally by a user except an author, including an MPEG2 moving picture encoder/decoder.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher O. Onuaku whose telephone number is (703) 308-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B. Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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COO

11/10/04

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